

## Guide to the Perkins Family Papers, 1813-1928

<b>Title:</b>	Perkins Family papers
<b>Creator:</b>	Perkins family
<b>Extent:</b>	2.5 linear feet
<b>Inclusive Dates:</b>	1813-1928
<b>Collection Number:</b>	1127
<b>Provenance:</b>	Gift of Perkins family
<b>Processed by:</b>	Ann Ulmer and Nena Shelley; updated by Laura Gentry and Donnelly Lancaster, 2008; photos processed by Jessica Small, Jennifer Culley, and Marina Klarić 2008
<b>Restrictions:</b>	none
<b>Copyright Statement:</b>	This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	The Perkins Family Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
<b>Reference Code:</b>	USALM 1127
<b>Language:</b>	English

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### ABSTRACT:

This collection consists chiefly of personal and family papers and photographs relating to the Stephen and Caroline Perkins family of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

#### **Stephen Constantine Perkins:**

Stephen Constantine Perkins was probably born in Louisa County, Virginia. He moved

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to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, around 1843 and ran a general store. He also served as city treasurer in 1853. He married Caroline Ann Walker in 1847, and they had one son, Julian C. Stephen died in 1858.

**Caroline Ann Walker Perkins:**

Caroline Ann (Walker) Perkins was born in Albermarle County, Virginia. Upon her mother's death around 1840, Caroline moved to Louisa County, Virginia, to stay with the Campbell family, and she also lived with relatives in Charlottesville, Virginia. She married Stephen Perkins in 1847, and had one child, Julian C. She died on September 27, 1892.

**Julian C. Perkins:**

Julian C. Perkins was born in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, on October 14, 1853. The son of Stephen and Caroline Perkins, he married Mary Kennedy on November 27, 1878, and worked as a dentist in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Upon retirement, he bred chickens and champion roosters. He died on January 28, 1917.

**Mary Kennedy Perkins:**

Mary (Mamie) Kennedy Perkins grew up in Kennedale, Florence, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Her date of birth is October 13, 1858. She also spent time in Labadieville, Assumption Parish, Louisiana. Her father was John S. Kennedy. She had two brothers, John R. Kennedy and L.P. Kennedy, and a sister, Vernon Kennedy Warren. She graduated from Tuscaloosa Female College. Mamie Kennedy married Julian C. Perkins on November 27, 1878. She was an accomplished pianist and taught music in her home. Mamie and Julian C. Perkins had four children: Edwin (1879), Brook (1885), Julian Herbert (1888-1958), and a child named David Patton Kennedy, who may have died in infancy. Mamie died around 1926.

**Others**

Vernon Kennedy Warren was the sister of Mamie Kennedy Perkins and her husband was Edward Warren, Sr. She had two sons, Edward, Jr., and John K. Warren.

John A. Perkins, the brother of Stephen C. Perkins, died on November 6, 1889.

Brook B. Walker, the brother of Caroline Walker Perkins, died in 1858.

**Sources:**

Green, Bruce. *A History of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1816-1949*. University, Alabama: Confederate Publishing Company, 1949.

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Social Security Death Index

U.S. Census, 1900

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**SCOPE AND CONTENTS:**

The Perkins Family Papers spans the period from 1813 to 1928, with the bulk of the collection being from the 1840s to the 1910s.

The Perkins Family Papers consists mainly of photographs and correspondence between family members. Within the collection, there are diaries, ledgers, a scrapbook, an unpublished novel, printed invitations, death notices, receipts, legal documents and other financial papers, and memorabilia. All papers are originals with the exception of some newspaper clippings that are photocopies.

The Perkins collection relates to Stephen C. and Carolina A. Perkins; their son Julian C. and his wife Mamie Kennedy Perkins, and their children: Edwin, Brook, Julian H., and Maud. The majority of the correspondence and papers were generated by Caroline A. Perkins and Mamie Kennedy Perkins. It concerns mostly family matters. The family life of Julian and Mamie Perkins and their children are well documented in pictures compiled by their son, Edwin. The photos have been removed from the papers and housed with the Hoole Library's photo collections.

The main correspondent in this collection is P.W. Connor of Virginia to Stephen and Caroline Perkins. He lucidly describes life in the 1840s to 1870s and the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:**

**SERIES: STEPHEN C. PERKINS**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1838-1862**

**EXTENT: .2 LINEAR FEET**

The Stephen C. Perkins Series contains correspondence along with business and financial records. Stephen Perkins wrote frequently to P.W. Connor, a childhood friend from Virginia, and within these letters, P.W. Connor gave a first-hand account of the Civil War in Virginia. Letters include news of the ratification of Virginia's new state constitution and of Brook Walker (Caroline Perkins' brother) being missing at sea. Letters to John A. Perkins contains documentary of the Civil War, and news of the deaths of Stephens Perkins and Brook Walker in 1858. His other main correspondent was his wife, Caroline Walker Perkins, and most of the letters were from their courtship.

**SERIES: CAROLINE WALKER PERKINS**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1821-1877**

**EXTENT: .2 LINEAR FEET**

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The Caroline Walker Perkins Series consists of correspondence, personal materials, and business materials. Most of the correspondence is with her future husband, Stephen Perkins, during their courtship, and many of the letters contain original poems written by Caroline Perkins. Caroline Perkins also corresponded with P.W. Connor, a childhood friend who married Sarah Campbell, a member of the family she stayed with in Virginia. P.W. Connor often wrote eyewitness accounts of Civil War in his letters. Letters to Caroline (Walker) Perkins includes news of Virginia State Convention's discussion of recession, and news of Civil War developments, in Virginia. There are also letters to widowed Caroline Perkins concerning the guardianship of her son Julian C. Perkins. Within the personal materials, there are original poems, invitations, funeral notices, recipes, and a memorandum book from 1848-1849. The business materials primarily consist of receipts and ledgers.

**SERIES: JULIAN C. PERKINS**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1863-1928**

**EXTENT: .4 LINEAR FEET**

The Julian C. Perkins Series contains mainly of business materials including several account books. The correspondence within this series is from family and friends. There is also an unpublished novel, *A Voice in the Night*, and artifacts including flowers, badges, and prize ribbons. The papers of Edwin, Brook, and Julian Herbert, and Maud Perkins, the children of Julian and Mamie Perkins, are also included in the series.

**SERIES: MARY (MAMIE) KENNEDY PERKINS**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1853-1925**

**EXTENT: .4 LINEAR FEET**

The Mary (Mamie) Kennedy Perkins series contains correspondence from family and friends. It also includes two diaries spanning the years 1873-1879 and a scrapbook from 1875 to 1920. There are a number of sympathy cards concerning the death of her husband, Julian C. Perkins.

**SERIES: OTHER RELATED FAMILIES**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1835-1907**

**EXTENT: .2 LINEAR FEET**

The Other Related Families Series is made up of relatives from the main branch of the Perkins family. John A. Perkins was the brother of Stephen C. Perkins and a brother-in-law of Caroline Walker Perkins, and most of his letters are to them. Brook B. Walker was the brother of Caroline Walker Perkins and a brother-in-law to Stephen C. Perkins. He wrote to Stephen and Caroline Perkins and his father, J.B. Walker. Of particular interest is an account of the capture of Santa Anna written by Brook Walker to his father, J.B. Walker. The Kennedys were the relatives of Mamie Kennedy Perkins and became part of the Perkins extended family when Mamie married Julian C. Perkins. The Kennedy family papers contain legal documents concerning bankruptcy of John S. Perkins, bills, indenture of Mr. and Mrs. John E. DuBois to D.P. Kennedy, and accounts

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of sales. The Warren family is related to the Perkins. Vernon Kennedy Warren was the sister of Mamie Kennedy Perkins, and her husband was Edward Warren, Sr. They had two sons: Edward, Jr., and John K. Warren. The Warren family papers consist of letters between family members and the obituaries of Vernon Kennedy Warren and Edward Warren, Sr.

**SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

**EXTENT: .1 LINEAR FOOT**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: 1851-1862**

The series, Miscellaneous Correspondence, contains letters from individuals who may or may not have connections with the Perkins family. The relationship between the individuals and the Perkins family is unclear.

**SERIES: PHOTOGRAPHS**

**EXTENT: 1 LINEAR FOOT**

**INCLUSIVE DATES: circa 1890s and 1900s**

The Photographs series contains two photographic albums with 209 images, 72 loose photographs, and 121 glass negatives. The life of Julian C. Perkins, his wife Mary (Mamie) Kennedy Perkins, their children Edwin, Brook, and Julian, and their extended families is well documented in this photographic collection compiled by their son Edwin. There are also photographs of The University of Alabama (Woods Hall and President's Mansion); photographs of Tuscaloosa and surrounding area around 1890; John Robinson's Circus arriving to Tuscaloosa; Tuscaloosa Street Fair; some parts of Birmingham around the same time period; and Meridian, Mississippi.

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**CONTAINER LIST:**

SERIES: Stephen C. Perkins

Box	Folder	Description
285	1	Outgoing Correspondence, 1845-1849
	2	Incoming Correspondence, 1847-1851
	3	Business and Personal Materials, 1838-1862
	4	Store Ledger, 1849

SERIES: Caroline Walker Perkins

Box	Folder	Description
285	5	Outgoing Correspondence, 1843-1847
	6	Incoming Correspondence, 1841-1864
	7	Business Materials, 1821-1877
	8	Personal Materials

SERIES: Julian C. Perkins

Box	Folder	Description
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286	9	Outgoing Correspondence, 1901-1913
	10	Incoming Correspondence, 1876-1903
	11	Business Materials, 1909
	12	Family Account Book, 1908-1912
	13	Family Account Book, 1906-1925
	14	Family Account Book, 1906-1907
	15	Personal Materials, 1863-1928
	16	Miscellaneous
	17	Children's Papers, 1910-1914

**SERIES: Mary (Mamie) Kennedy Perkins**

Box	Folder	Description
287	18	Outgoing Correspondence, 1908
	19	Incoming Correspondence, 1874-1917
	20	Business Materials, 1853-1925
	21	Personal Materials
	22	Diary, 1873-1877
	23	Diary, 1876-1879
	24	Scrapbook, 1875-1920

**SERIES: Other related families**

Box	Folder	Description
289	25	John A. Perkins correspondence, 1840-1865
	26	Kennedy Family Papers, 1839-1882
	27	Warren Family Papers, 1881-1907
	28	Brook B. Walker Outgoing Correspondence, 1835-1848
	29	Brook B. Walker Incoming Correspondence, 1846

**SERIES: Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Box	Folder	Description
289	30	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1851-1862

**SERIES: Photographs**

Box	Folder/Item	Description
1	1-174	Family Album, 1890s (family portraits, family gatherings, trains, buildings, cityscapes)
	175-187	Loose Prints (trains, residences, and businesses)
	188-193	Loose Prints (recreation, street fair, bicycles, and race track)
	194-202	Loose Prints (factories, butter churning, and camping)
	203-206	Loose Prints (family portraits and river scene)
	207-210	Loose Prints (dress up and random play)
	211-214	Loose Prints (dams, trains, and a serenade)
	215-221	Loose Prints (recreation, circus, and swimming)

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	222-230	Loose Prints (Perkins home, cityscape, and street fair)
	231-236	Loose Prints (portraits of Mamie Kennedy Perkins and her son, Brooke Kennedy Perkins)
	237	Loose Prints (Camp Mary)
	238-243	Loose Prints (portraits of Mamie Kennedy Perkins, Edward K. Perkins, Patton David Kennedy, and others)
	244-245	Loose Prints (Camp Mary)
	246-248	Loose Prints (A.C.F. school girls and others)
2	249-261	Glass Negatives (residences, churches, train yards, and businesses)
	262-268	Glass Negatives (recreation, street fair, cityscapes)
	269-274	Glass Negatives (factories, butter churning, and machinery)
	275-279	Glass Negatives (Perkins family, Camp Mary, and others)
	280-281	Glass Negatives (dress up)
	282-284	Glass Negatives (dam and factories)
	285	Glass Negatives (singing)
	286-291	Glass Negatives (cityscapes, train yard, and houses)
	292-294	Glass Negatives (dress up, swimming, and playing in snow)
	295-308	Glass Negatives (cityscapes, factories, and picnics)
	309-317	Glass Negatives (nature, rivers, and forests)
	318-326	Glass Negatives (Camp Mary and unidentified individuals)
	327	Glass Negatives (Julian C., Edwin, Brook, Julian H. Perkins)
3	328-330	Glass Negatives (unidentified man and baby girl in high chair)
	331-332	Glass Negatives (Julian H. Perkins, dress up)
	333-335	Glass Negatives (babies and pets)
	336	Glass Negatives (Brook and Julian H. Perkins in costumes)
	337-344	Glass Negatives (outdoors and picnic)
	345-353	Glass Negatives (locks on river, bridges, and houses)
	354-358	Glass Negatives (babies and rocking chairs)
	359-362	Glass Negatives (Edwin, Brook, and Julian H. Perkins playing in water)
	363-365	Glass Negatives (graves, railroad tracks, and forests)
	366-368	Glass Negatives (rivers and outdoors)
	369	Glass Negatives (machine in factory)